

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Renee Hoffman  
Phone: 919/733-5612

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**GOV. EASLEY ALERTS STATE RESOURCES FOR POSSIBLE FLOOD RESPONSE**

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today alerted some of the state’s swift water rescue teams in eastern North Carolina to be on standby in the event they are needed as heavy rains pour into the state. Coastal flood warnings are up for Beaufort, Carteret, Craven and Pamlico counties.

“A nor’easter can cause flooding similar to what we see in a minor hurricane,” Easley said. “People in the coastal counties need to pay close attention to the weather for the next couple of days and be ready to respond if local officials issue emergency instructions.”

Easley ordered swift water rescue teams in Johnston, Nash, Pitt and Wayne counties to be ready to go to the coast if needed. He also directed the National Guard to have high clearance vehicles on standby. Two squads of eight Highway Patrol troopers are also on alert to assist troopers in coastal counties as necessary.

Highway 12 on Cedar Island is under water in some locations. The Department of Transportation ceased all ferry service operations as of 4:00 p.m. today due to weather conditions. Ferry service is not expected to resume until Thanksgiving Day at the earliest. For updated information, please call 5-1-1 or visit [www.ncferry.org](http://www.ncferry.org).

Rain is expected to continue falling in parts of North Carolina through tomorrow, but especially in the east. The National Weather Service predicts total rainfall amounts between four and seven inches. Low-lying areas that regularly flood can be expected to do so again. The storm has the potential to produce 9-to-13 foot waves, sustained winds of 25 miles per hour and wind gusts up to 55 miles per hour.

Easley reminded residents not to drive through flooded areas. Most flood deaths occur when people try to drive over roads that are covered in water. It takes less than a foot of water to float most cars and swift moving water can wash people and cars away in seconds.

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